

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1866.

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The President.

However much President Johnson may differ with the party which elevated him to power, it is very evident that he has no intention of throwing himself into the arms of any organization which has even the smell of disloyalty upon its garments. However much his views may clash with certain of the Union leaders, he manifestly intends, as he has declared, to fight his battles within the lines of the Union party. In his recent conversation with Governor Cox, of Ohio, he said his whole heart was with the body of true men who carried the country through the war, and he earnestly desired to maintain a cordial and perfect understanding with them.

After making the most strenuous efforts to win over the Republican President, the Democrats are at last coming to the conclusion that their labors will prove unavailing, if a sudden change of tone affects any criterion to judge from. For example, Senator Seward said in the course of his lachrymose speech before a gathering of the faithful at Washington on Saturday, that he was tired of supporting a man who would not help himself, who let the Connecticut election go against him, when he could have prevented it; who gave his offices to his enemies, and retains a Cabinet wholly inclined to his policy.

The world now wants it to be understood that Mr. Johnson is not our President. Democratic "praise and support him" just exactly as we should have praised and supported Mr. Lincoln. We do not ask of him anything except not to desert himself. We do not ask for offices; we do not want them. It continues:

"The President, in being afraid to identify himself in any way with the Democratic party (perhaps from motives of delicacy, which we appreciate) can less something; but that party which needs so little to sustain itself can easily do without him. They left him, and he left them. The party which left Washington, the Democratic party managed to exist without him, and to beat him as often as he would the combat. We do not say Mr. Seward's pretended friends of Seward & Co., whom he so often bitterly denounced as enemies of the Union, subserve the ends of the Constitution, and the voters of civil war. We did not ask him not to affiliate with them; but he knows that, though he asks it, we will not affiliate with them; their hands are too red with blood and their pockets too plump with public plunder."

The world now changes its attitude toward the President thus unkindly and says:

"If the President will consent to be the head of a faction, let him execute the unconstitutional laws of those legislative monopolies. But, if he is President of the United States, he need not come to trample upon the edicts of the demagogues who are going through the show and mockery of legislation as we see it."

Following the lead of these two journals, we may now expect the rural Democratic press will go still further and soundly berate Mr. Johnson for not fulfilling their expectations, and ranging himself along with them.

The President, however, will doubtless play little heed to, and care less about, these unfriendly expressions of opinion. Nor need he look to mere party organizations for approval and support. If, rising above all parties and influences, he fearlessly and conscientiously performs his whole duty, the voice of the American people will applaud and uphold him.—N. Y. Com. Advertiser.

Death of Thomas Downing, the Carpenter.

This well-known caterer and oysterman, one of the "institutions" of New York for nearly fifty years, died yesterday in this city, at the age of seventy-five years.

Mr. Downing was born in Acoacum county, Virginia, on the 27th of January, 1791. He was born a slave. His master's family were well known and much respected in that country. The white meeting house was named after the family, being known as the Downing Meeting House. The mother of Downing was a woman well known and much esteemed for her piety. Dying in boyhood was sent to the same school with Henry A. Wise.

His parents were freed by old Captain Downing. Subsequently a relative of Captain Downing attempted to set aside his will and re-estate the people he had freed. This person was killed by the colored people, who resisted his attempt. They were thereafter left in peace.

During the war of 1812, Thomas Downing first came North, and for a time was with the army. After the war he went to Philadelphia, where, having no trade, he was a servant in some of the prominent families of the city, whose respect and friendship he gained by his faithful conduct.

He came to New York in June, 1819, and began life as a "kalsominer," opening a shop in Broad street; and here he soon after set up an eating house, which shortly became famous with down-town merchants, for the excellence of his oysters and other eatables, and the cleanliness of his place.

The great events of Mr. Downing's life occurred at the great fire in 1835, when a large part of the business part of the city was destroyed. Mr. Downing, by his presence of mind, succeeded in saving property valued at over a million of dollars. The weather was so cold that the water froze nearly as fast as it left the engines, and but little could be done to stay the rapid progress of the flames. Mr. Downing discovered several barrels of vinegar standing behind a fence in the direct course the fire was taking from Exchange place to Wall street. These barrels he opened, and standing behind the fence threw the vinegar upon the flames at great risk to his life, until he had checked the fire in that direction. He was injured by the fire. In a lithograph of the conflagration, which was subsequently issued, he was given the most prominent place. His services were also recognized by a series of resolutions which were adopted by a meeting of prominent citizens.

In the early days of New York the lower part of the city was occupied by the leading residents, many of whom used to take their families to Downing's in Broad street, to eat oysters. His name thus became a warrant for good living, and he was for many years the chief caterer for parties, especially among the old residents.

Mr. Downing raised a large family of children, to whom he gave a liberal education, sending some of them to Europe for that purpose. Only two of his children—George T., the eldest, and Peter W., the youngest—survive their father.

Mr. Downing was connected with the higher degrees of Masonry, was an Odd Fellow, and for a great many years had been a vestryman of St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church. His attachment to the old spot in Broad street, where his eating-house had long stood, was very strong, and when the property changed hands, a year or two ago, and he was obliged to remove, it caused him much suffering.

He lived a useful, industrious, and honorable and industrious life, and few of our citizens, in the humbler walks of life, have been more generally or justly respected.—N. Y. Evening Post, 11th.

THE New York Tribune celebrated on Tuesday, the twenty-fifth year of its existence, as Delmonico, where a large party of newspaper men gathered around the festive board, fed upon the choicest viands, drank sparkling wines, and listened to cheerful speeches. The Tribune has been enlarged and bids fair to round another quarter of a century before Mr. Greeley shall retire from the field.

Forney in February.

Col. Forney, in a late letter to the Philadelphia Press, refers to the prospect of the speedy admission of the members of Congress from Texas as follows:

"I think there is a general prospect of an early solution of the difficulties surrounding this most important question. The earnest anxiety of the President to see his own State taking a part in the National Legislature is shared by the Union majorities in Congress. The Copperheads have been especially not created by the friends of the Government, but accumulated in consequence of the open and repeated disaffection of the recent insurgents—those who seem to delight, especially in Tennessee, in showing their disregard of their oath and their contempt for the rights and authority of the Federal Government. The Copperheads are the only ones who can be satisfied that I express the belief that in a very short time some general measure will be recommended by which the expectations of the President will be realized, and the good and the true men of Tennessee restored, in both branches of Congress, to their seats, and the bill for the enlargement and incorporation of the Copperheads' State becomes a law, the threatened change between common friends will be bridged over, and the Union party, under the lead of a patriotic Executive, will march on to commanding victory—in the light of the principles which destroyed the rebellion and forward the progressive inspirations of the age."

It is evident from the above that the sudden change at Washington in favor of the admission of the Tennessee delegation has been brought about by a desire on the part of the ultra to secure the approval of the Freedmen's Bureau bill. "Sign the bill, Mr. President, and we will admit the Representatives and Senators from your State" is the game. Well, the President is not a trader. If Tennessee is to be proscribed until he makes some such bargain as this, he is likely to be proscribed for some years to come.

The statement that the obstinate in the way of Tennessee have "accumulated in consequence of the open and repeated disaffection of the recent insurgents, who seemed to delight—especially in Tennessee—in showing their disregard of their oaths and their contempt for the national authority," is founded. Such has been the conduct of the "recent insurgents" in Tennessee; and if it had what that to do with the claims of Tennessee Congressmen, elected by a loyal constituency, under a loyal State government—Nashville Union, Feb. 20

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HARPER'S MAGAZINE.

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The present session of Congress cannot fail to be of much importance in the history of our Government. In accordance with requests received from our agents, we will publish the Magazine until the 1st of May, so as to present a full account of the first-class stories of the year, and by which they shall be activated and opposed, and the final action taken in respect to them with abstracts of the principal documents with which the nation is passing. It will be the aim of the writer of the Magazine to give a fair statement of facts and of the opinions of the principal men, not to set forth his own views.

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